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of Health, whose meager appropriation prevents proper collection of samples to be analyzed, and so defeats the purpose of the law.

Virginia has a new law, administered by the State Department of Agriculture, which is "having an excellent effect in regard to labeling and branding."

Washington has a good law and a Commissioner who says: "If the people want to buy dirt, they can; but they will not be cheated into doing it under false colors."

West Virginia has no provision for enforcing such laws as are on the statute books, but we learn that the public is aroused to the importance of the question and the recent establishment of milk inspection in Wheeling is a step in the right direction.

Wisconsin has a good law and a wide-awake Dairy and Food Commission.

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### CHILD LABOR—A NATIONAL DISGRACE.

This topic was presented at the biennial meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at St. Paul, June, 1906, by Dr. Samuel McCune Lindsay of the University of Pennsylvania, and Secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, also ex-Commissioner of Education in Porto Rico, who spoke in part as follows:

"If there is any natural or necessary division of labor in the public work of men and women certainly the guardianship of the interests of children will appeal most strongly to women. It may be man's fault rather than woman's that our modern industrial system has laid so heavy a hand on the child. Our mines and coal breakers, our cotton mills and factories, our glass houses, silk mills, messenger and delivery service, street trades and other hazardous occupations for young children have already enlisted one in every twenty-two children throughout the entire country, and if we include all wage-earning child workers, more than one in every six children of the country, or over two million, must be counted. We cannot boast of American opportunities or do ought but hang our heads in shame when we admit these facts.

"We are all responsible, men and women alike, for this horrible condition of affairs. Every section of the country is guilty, every industry is a conspirator in these wrongs done to innocent children. There is a sovereign remedy—*publicity*. The National Committee was organized as a representative body of men and women to ascertain and present the facts. We have done this as best we can with the resources of a private society and we will continue to do it. We now call on you as the organized force of woman's influence in this country, we call on organized labor, on the churches representing the organized religious forces, and finally we call on the Federal Government to assume the responsibility for these wrongs to childhood and to set about forthwith to right them, to make restitution four-fold. Publicity on a national scale is the sovereign remedy. What has it not done in

righting the wrongs of insurance mismanagement, in helping us to find a way to control corporate greed, railroad rebates and many other economic ills. Now the singular thing is that we have through a campaign of publicity come to recognize government responsibility even under our peculiar constitutional complications for the finding of a way to deal with these questions effectively. What responsibility does the government, state or nation, assume to-day for the children? Are they not an asset of the nation? Is their physical, industrial, intellectual and moral training not a matter of as much concern to the nation as the breeding of cattle, horses and swine? Do they not represent an economic value of as great concern as the soils, seeds, fisheries, or insect pests of the country? In all these matters the National Government has well organized bureaus of *investigation* and *publicity*. No constitutional provision prohibits the government at Washington from investigating minutely, exhaustively and authoritatively the condition of working children and the numerous questions allied thereto such as the questions of infant mortality, the birth rate, physical degeneracy, orphanage, juvenile delinquency and juvenile courts, desertion and illegitimacy, dangerous occupations, accidents and diseases of children, legislation affecting children in the several states and territories and such other facts as have a bearing upon the health, efficiency, character and training of children. The results of such investigations made public by the National Government will not only give our states the necessary basis for wise legislation and wiser administration of child labor laws and other legal provision for childhood but will make such action by the states necessary and inevitable.

"The Providence (R. I.) *Journal* has treated this point most wisely and patriotically when it said: 'While it is easy to recognize the almost self-evident truth that the welfare of children is of vital importance to the country, it is far less easy to find methods of improving their conditions. Congress has no power to enact legislation for the states prohibiting child labor or dealing with the problems of illiteracy, illegitimacy, juvenile crime, children's courts and allied questions. Each state must regulate these affairs for itself. The question, then, is far more complicated and much more delicate than if it could be settled by one law-making body. It partakes of the subtle difficulties common to many of the problems now uppermost in the minds of thinking Americans—it belongs to the state for solution, but it is national both in the interest it arouses and in the danger it threatens.

"In so vital a question, as in almost all the other important issues of the present time, it is natural to think that the means followed to secure relief are of slight importance. Such thinking, however, is dangerous. The Federal Government is constantly being called upon to do what it is the constitutional duty of the states to accomplish. That very habit of ignoring the commonwealth in the pressure of difficulties and applying for a remedy at Washington is potent for mischief. It weakens the power of the state, diminishes the respect of its own citizens for its powers and makes it far less able to govern itself. Thus delegated authority is removed one step further away from the people whence it comes; and how much is lost in the process is a question of no slight moment to American institutions.

Fortunately it seems possible to solve the problem of the protection of children by a method in which the state will lose none of its rights and the government will lend its valuable offices and powerful prestige.

“The national child labor committee, which is conducting the campaign in favor of national legislation in behalf of children, asks simply for the establishment of a children's bureau in the Department of the Interior. The bill now before the Senate seeking this end grants to that office only the rights of investigation and publicity. These rights, however, if well used, will result in the collection of all the data the public needs to form its opinion; and this opinion can easily find expression in the enlightened state laws. May it not be that in this proposed union of national research and publicity with state autonomy many of the most trying of the great modern evils will be cured? If such should be the fortunate result, good laws would not mean curtailing in the slightest degree the liberty of the several states.’

“We do not want merely statistics which the government now furnishes in part for some of these questions, but we want such illuminating reports on child labor as the Bureau of Corporations has recently furnished about Standard Oil and the Railroads, or the Bureau of Labor furnishes about labor problems. Where is the Children's Bureau in our National Government? It was a woman's happy suggestion a few years ago—from Miss Lillian D. Wald of the Nurses' Settlement in New York—that we should have a National Children's Bureau—and the National Child Labor Committee has willingly adopted the suggestion and a bill is now pending in Congress to create such a Bureau. It will become a law, I believe, only if you women want it earnestly enough to work for it. You have in your clubs endorsed the Crane bill to establish the bureau, but this will not be enough to get it. You must endorse it over and over again, write personally over and over again to your Senators and Representatives, make a point of seeing them about it when they return home from Washington. Write “*Children's Bureau*” on your program for work and discussion next fall in every club here represented, and when the next session of Congress assembles in December we will have a National Children's Bureau, and half the battle against child labor will be won.”

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### CHILD LABOR IN BELGIUM.

By FRANCIS H. McLEAN in Collaboration With Professor Emile Waxweiler of Brussels. A report prepared for the National Consumers' League.

The history of the regulation of child labor in Belgium presents to us a curiously mixed and confusing development. This is because the standards set by the law of December 13, 1889, which still is the chief law on the subject, were not high and also because that statute opened the way for letting down the bars in some directions, and in building the fences higher in other